

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A needle device comprising:

a housing having a base for placement against a surface of a needle penetrating site, the base including a first opening;

a needle mounted for a movement between a retracted position in the housing and an extended position, a portion of the needle extending through the first opening in the extended position;

an actuator movably mounted to the housing and movable between ~~[[an]]~~ a primary unactuated position in which the needle is in the retracted position, [[and]] an actuated position in which the needle is in the extended position,[[;]] and a secondary unactuated position in which the needle is in the retracted position; and

a retraction mechanism that automatically moves the actuator ~~needle~~ to the ~~retracted~~ secondary unactuated position responsive to releasing the base from the site surface, wherein the actuator is not movable between the secondary unactuated position and the actuated position when the base is placed on a surface.

2. (Original) A needle device according to Claim 1, wherein the needle is biased toward a retracted position.

3. (Currently Amended) A needle device according to Claim 2, wherein the retraction mechanism permanently locks the needle in the retracted position after releasing the base from the site surface ~~moving the actuator to the actuated position to prevent a repeated movement of the needle to the extended position.~~
4. (Original) A needle device according to Claim 1, wherein the retraction mechanism includes a trigger member movably mounted to the housing, the trigger member having a first portion adapted to engage the actuator and a second portion adapted to contact the site surface.
5. (Original) A needle device according to Claim 4, wherein the trigger member is pivotally mounted to the housing.
6. (Original) A needle device according to Claim 5, wherein the base further includes a second opening through which the second portion of the trigger member is adapted to contact the site surface.
7. (Original) A needle device according to Claim 4, wherein the housing has an actuator guide that guides the actuator through a predetermined path of movement.
8. (Original) A needle device according to Claim 7, wherein the guide comprises a substantially U-shaped channel formed in the housing, the U-shaped channel comprising a first substantially vertical guide portion, a second substantially vertical guide portion and a horizontal guide portion connecting lower ends of the first and second vertical portions.

9. (Original) A needle device according to Claim 8, wherein the actuator is rotatably and vertically movable mounted to the housing, and further includes a pin adapted to be guided in the U-shaped channel.

10. (Original) A needle device according to Claim 9, further including a spring that biases the actuator to the unactuated position the spring having one end thereof fixedly mounted to the actuator and another end thereof fixedly mounted to the base to enable creation of a spring torsional load when the actuator is rotated relative to the base.

11. (Original) A needle device according to Claim 10, wherein the spring is torsionally preloaded to rotate the actuator from the first vertical guide portion to the second vertical guide portion through the horizontal guide portion upon moving the actuator to the actuated position.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A needle device according to Claim 11, wherein the trigger member is pivotally mounted to the housing and the first portion thereof is adapted to engage the pin and prevent the actuator from moving to the unactuated position when the pin is positioned in the second vertical guide portion and the second portion thereof is contacting the site surface.

14. (Original) A needle device according to Claim 13, wherein the base further includes a second opening through which the second portion of the trigger member is adapted to contact the site surface.

15. (Original) A needle device according to Claim 14, wherein the actuator guide further includes a lock portion contiguous with the second vertical guide portion.

16. (Original) A needle device according to Claim 15, wherein the spring torsional preloading further rotates the actuator into the lock portion to lock the actuator from moving to the actuated position.

17-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A needle device comprising:

a housing having a base adapted to be placed next to a surface of a needle-penetrating site, the base including an opening;

a needle mounted for a movement between a retracted position in the housing and an extended position, where a portion of the needle extends through the opening when in the extended position;

an actuator movably mounted to the housing and movable between an unactuated position at which the needle is in the retracted position and an actuated position at which the needle is in the extended position, the actuator being biased toward the unactuated position;

a retraction mechanism that automatically moves the needle from the extended position to the retracted position, the retraction mechanism being configured to begin moving the needle to the retracted position after release of the base ~~in response to removal of the needle device from next to the surface.~~

29. (Original) A needle device according to Claim 28, further comprising a locking mechanism that prevents the needle from moving back to the extended position once the needle has been moved from the extended position to the retracted position.

30. (Original) A needle device according to Claim 29, wherein the locking mechanism is integral with the retraction mechanism.

31. (Previously Presented) A needle device according to Claim 28, wherein the retraction mechanism includes a cover member for covering the opening after a tip of the needle moves from the extended position to the retracted position, in which the tip of the needle is received within the housing.

32-53. (Canceled)